A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE THIRD SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM OF FKIP OF RIAU UNIVERSITY IN COMPREHENDING THE ERNEST HEMINGWAY "SOLDIER HOME" SHORT STORY

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Abstract: *This study was aimed to find out the ability of the third semester students of English study program of FKIP of Riau University in comprehending the Ernest Hemingway "soldier home" short story. The researcher used cluster random sampling technique to determine the sample. The samples were 35 students. The study was used to find out the ability in five elements of fictions such as subject, events, setting, character and moral value. Multiple choice was used to gain the data with the number of tests is 20 questions. The result of the study revealed that the total mean score was 63.71 which indicated students were in good level of ability. The highest score with the mean score 77 was in the subject, it is in good level. Whereas, the lowest score with the mean score 34.28 was in the moral value, it is in poor level of ability.*

Keywords: Students' ability, Literature, Short Story

STUDI TENTANG KEMAMPUAN MAHASISWA SEMESTER KE-3 PROGRAM STUDI BAHASA INGGRIS FKIP UNIVERSITAS RIAU DALAM MEMAHAMI CERITA PENDEK "SOLDIER HOME' KARYA ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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Abstract: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan mahasiswa Semester Ke-tiga program studi bahasa inggris fkip universitas riau dalam memahami cerita pendek "Soldier Home" karya Ernest Hemingway. Peneliti menggunakan teknik cluster random sampling untuk menentukan sampel. Sampel berjumlah 35 mahasiswa. Penelitian ini digunakan untuk mengetahui kemampuan pada lima elemen fiksi seperti subject, kejadian, setting, karakter dan nilai moral. Pilihan ganda digunakan untuk memperoleh data dengan jumlah test adalah 20 pertanyaan. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa nilai total rata-rata adalah 63.71 dari jumlah mahasiswa dikategorikan pada level baik. Skor tertinggi dengan rata-rata 77 adalah subject, yaitu berada pada level baik. Sedangkan level terendah dengan rata-rata 34.28 adalah nilai moral yaitu berada pada level rendah.

Kata Kunci: Kemampuan mahasiswa, Sastra, Cerita Pendek

INTRODUCTION

In learning a language especially English, people will be introduced with literature because language and literature have a close relation (Eagleton, 1996). The definition of literature and its relationship to language: literature transforms and intensifies ordinary language, deviates systematically from everyday speech. Furthermore, literature is the art form that arises out of the human ability to create language.

There are some advantages that people get into the study of literature more than knowing a language. Firstly, people who study literature will get pleasure because they will be happy and comfortable while reading or studying it. Secondly, William (1950) stated that literature gives the best quality for person's intellect, from the suggestion and the true reflection about the artistic. In the other words, literature helps people to be (become more) realistic, mature, wise and humane. It helps people understand human values, sentiments, interest, and problems. It brings closer to other human beings of the same or different nationalities, cultures, and become more tolerant, balanced and fuller. Thirdly, people also understand the background of the author and the social background where the literature has been created.

Literature can be defined particularly in the university as the cover of the major genre of fiction that has elements to create them. One of fiction is the short story that has literature elements, such as theme, plot, character, setting, point of view, etc. As DiYanni (2001) stated that in learning to read fiction well, people must understand something about its techniques. One useful way to approach the techniques of fiction is to describe its basic elements or characteristics; they are plot and structure, character, setting, the point of view, style, and language, symbol, irony and theme. In brief, the literature elements are very important in the fiction, to describe a story and make the story become life.

In the case of this study, most of English students especially students in English Study Program at Teacher's Training and Educational Faculty of Riau University. The students are seldom to be introducing in reading short stories in reading class because students are confused to determine and understand the elements of literature. Some students should think hard to know each of literature elements. It can be proved from the third-semester students who have the Introduction to Literature class; they inferred that in determining plot is confusing especially in part of climax and conflict.

In addition, in English study program at Teacher's Training and Educational Faculty of Riau University, introduction to literature class is affected by Reading I, II, III in which the students are seldom to be introduced in reading short stories, but focus on comprehending the reading articles, novels, news, etc. Introduction to Literature is provided to the students to help and give them general information about Poetry and Drama for the next semester.

The researcher limited the problems that only focus on five elements of fictions which are mostly discussed in class such as; theme, character, plot and structure, the point of view and setting in the short story. The reasons for choosing those elements are because of the wide scope of elements of fictions. In addition, after the researcher analyzes the short story, it doesn't have irony and style.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher would like to investigate the third-semester students in English Study Program at Teacher's Training and Educational Faculty of Riau University in the Introduction to Literature class. The

researcher interested in doing a research with the title *A Study on the Third Semester Students' Ability in Comprehending the Ernest Hemingway "Soldier Home" Short Story of The Riau University.*

RESEARCH METODOLOGY

The research took place at English Study Program of FKIP University of Riau, Pekanbaru in the academic year 2015/2016. The population of this research is the third semester students of English Study Program of FKIP University of Riau by the total number of the students is 92 students in three classes namely class A, B and C. By using cluster random sampling which used to get the sample in a large population and was found the sample is class C consisted of 35 students and the tryout class is class A consisted of 25 students. This study used quantitative data in which the students were assessed by their score.

The instrument used to collect the data was in term of multiple choice tests. There are five elements of fiction; they are character, theme, plot and structure, the point of view and setting. The number of the test is 20 items with time allocation is 60 minutes to complete the questions.

The blueprint of the instrument

Comprehending Short Stories		Number of items	Number of each item
Reading Comprehension Dealing with Content	Comprehending Short Stories		
General Idea	a) Subject	5	17, 19
Factual Information	b) Events	5	3, 7, 8, 14, 16
	c) Settings	5	1, 5, 9, 11, 20
	d) Characters	5	2, 4, 10, 13, 15
-	e) Moral Value	5	6, 12, 18

Before distributing the real test, tryout test was given to the class A as the tryout class. It aims to see whether or not the test is strong enough to measure what should be measured (validity) as well as the consistency of the test (reliability). Moreover, the tryout is used to see the level of difficulty of the test items. According to Heaton (1975), the test will be accepted if the degree of the difficulty is between 0.30 - 0.70 and will be rejected if the index of difficulty is below 0.30 (difficult) and over 0.70 (easy). After that, the writer computed the determination index, the mean score, the standard deviation, and the reliability of the test. If the test is reliable and can be used, then it will be given at the sample class. After that, it is analyzed according to the students' scores and their level of ability. The classification is such followed:

Classification of Students' Score

No.	Scores	Category
1.	80 – 100	Excellent
2.	60 – 79	Good
3.	50 – 59	Average
4.	0 – 49	Poor

(Adapted from Harris, 1974)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

The researcher presented the results of the test showing the students' ability in five elements of fictions such as subject, events, setting, characters and moral value.

The Result of the Tryout

The researcher presented the result of the test showing the students' ability. Before the real test is given to the sample class, the tryout was given to the tryout class which consisted of 25 students of English Study Program FKIP Riau University from class A. After that, the writer computed the difficulty level, the determination index, the mean score, the standard deviation, and the reliability of the test.

The Difficulty Level of Test Items

By using the formula, there were found that 4 items number should be revised in order to test what should be tested: they are number 4, 13, 18 and 20. Item number 4 and 1 were revised because their index difficulty below 0.70 which meant that they were too easy. Whereas, the item number 18 and 20 were revised because their index difficulty were above 0.30 which meant that they were too difficult. Since the 4 items were rejected, the writer revised the test before it was distributed on the real test.

The Reliability of the Test

From the calculation of the data, it can be seen that the reliability of the test was 0.63. Tinambunan (1988) stated that if the test reached over 0.70, it is reliable and categorized ad high reliability. There were some steps that the researcher used in order to find out the reliability of the test, as described below:

a) The mean score was reached by computing every student's correct answers. The way to get the mean score was the total scores of the students' correct answer were divided by the total number of the students. Based on a calculation on appendix 8, the total score of the students' answer is 312 from 25 students (the tryout respondents) from the calculation, the mean score is 12.48.

b) The mean score was used to get the standard deviation of the test which was processed in appendix 9. The standard deviation (SD) is 4.01.

c) The value of the mean and standard deviation were used in calculating the reliability of the test. The reliability of the test is 0.63 (high).

The Analysis of Data

Individual Score

In order to find out the individual score of each student, the writer divided the number of the correct answers with the total number of items and then multiplied by one hundred (100). It is found that the mean score of the third semester students of English Study Program of FKIP University of Riau in Comprehending the Ernest Hemingway "Soldier Home" Short Story of The Riau University is 63.71. Therefore, it is categorized is in good level. There are 35 students taking the test and four students got excellent level (11.4%), twenty-two students got good level (62.9%), seven students got average level (7%), and two students got poor level (5.7%).

The Classification of the Students' Ability in Riau in Comprehending the Ernest Hemingway "Soldier Home" Short Story

After finding the students' individual scores in Comprehending the Ernest Hemingway "Soldier Home" Short Story, the writer examined their ability based on the classifications of the questions as stated in the blueprint of the instrument. There are 5 elements of fiction in this study, they are: subject, events, setting, character and moral value.

The Students' Ability in Term of Subject

The mean of the students' score in comprehending the subject in a short story is 77.14. Therefore, the students' ability is the good level. After collecting the data the of the third-semester students' Ability in comprehending the subject in short story can be seen as follow:

The Percentage of Students' Ability in comprehending the subject in short story

No	Level of Ability	Score	Frequency	%
1	Excellent	80 - 100	23	65.71
2	Good	60 - 79	-	-
3	Average	50 - 59	8	22.85
4	Poor	0 – 49	4	11.43
	Total		35	100

The Students' Ability in Term of Events

The mean of the students' score in comprehending the events in a short story is 753.14. Therefore, the students' ability is the average level. After collecting the data of the third-semester students' Ability in comprehending the events in short story can be seen as follows:

The Precentage of Students' Ability in comprehending the events in a short story

No	Level of Ability	Score	Frequency	%
1	Excellent	80 - 100	1	2.86
2	Good	60 - 79	26	74.29
3	Average	50 - 59	-	-
4	Poor	0 - 49	8	22.85
	Total		35	100

The Students' Ability in Term of Setting

The mean of the students' score in comprehending the setting in a short story is 61.14. Therefore, the students' ability is the good level. After collecting the data of the third-semester students' Ability in comprehending the setting in short story can be seen as follows:

The Precentage of Students' Ability in comprehending the setting in a short story

No	Level of Ability	Score	Frequency	%
1	Excellent	80 - 100	11	31,43
2	Good	60 - 79	15	42,85
3	Average	50 - 59	0	0
4	Poor	0 - 49	9	25,72
	Total		35	100

The Students' Ability in Term of Character

The mean of the students' score in comprehending the character in a short story is 72. Therefore, the students' ability is the good level. After collecting the data of the third-semester students' Ability in comprehending the character in short story can be seen as follow:

The Precentage of Students' Ability in Comprehending the character in a Short Story

No	Level of Ability	Score	Frequency	%
1	Excellent	80 – 100	21	54.29
2	Good	60 – 79	9	28.57
3	Average	50 – 59	0	0
4	Poor	0 – 49	5	17,14
	Total		35	100

The Students' Ability in Term of Moral Value

The mean of the students' score in comprehending the moral value in a short story is 34.28. Therefore, the students' ability is the poor level. After collecting the data of the third-semester students' Ability in comprehending the moral value in short story can be seen as follows:

The Precentage of Students' Ability in comprehending the moral value in a short story

No	Level of Ability	Score	Frequency	%
1	Excellent	80 - 100	12	34.29
2	Good	60 – 79	9	25.71
3	Average	50 – 59	0	-
4	Poor	0 – 49	14	40
	Total		35	100

DISCUSSION

The research findings showed that students of English Study Program of FKIP of Riau University in Comprehending the Ernest Hemingway "Soldier Home" Short Story are at Good level. It is proven by the students' mean score from the result of the test that is 63.71 which is classified into the good level. It means that the comprehending the elements of literature in a short story is not really difficult for the students even though they still have to learn more and practice often to make their ability in comprehending the elements of literature in a short story better than before.

Moreover, by looking at the result of students in comprehending the elements of literature in short story test, it can be concluded that the easiest one is the subject with the average score could reach 77.17, it's mean that the students can more understand the subject than the moral value where the most difficult element in the topic of the text is moral value in which average score 34.28.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

The objective of the research is to find out the ability of third-semester students in comprehending the elements of literature in a short story. After conducting the research, the researcher draws the conclusion that the students' ability in comprehending the elements of fiction in a short story for five elements is in the good level of ability with the total mean score 65.142. Considering the detail mean score, the students find difficult in moral value with the mean score 34.28 that are in level poor of ability. In addition, there are three elements in the good level of ability, but the easy one

with the highest mean score 77.14 is subject. Other elements in the level good of ability are setting 61.14, and character 72. In the other word, the third-semester students ability in comprehending the elements of literature in a short story of the Riau University have to learn more and practice often to make their ability to be better than before.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding the research findings, the researcher gives some suggestions in order to improve the students' ability in reading Comprehending the Elements of Literature in Short Story:

1. The English teacher/lecturer should give more explanation and more exercise about the elements of literature in a short story in order to improve students' ability in reading comprehending.
2. The students should read more English literature book that related to the literature elements in short story, and must pay attention or concentrate to the teacher/lecturers' stimulus in teaching the Introduction to Literature as the subject in the English Department. They have more practice English text or English short stories to improve their reading comprehending
3. The readers can use this study to write the study in reading comprehending or another study about English that related to improving the English language.

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